MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): When there was economic depression in the State and when we were trying our level best to make money for the Government, what was it that induced Government to make a remission of such a large sum, as one lakh of rupees odd, in favour of one company?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): To foster the salt industry of the State; that was the main object of the Government in allowing that remission.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): But, there were thirteen other licensees who applied for remission; they were not granted any remission.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The reason is given in the answer itself.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): The reason given in answer (*g*) is this;

> "If the whole quantity manufactured is taken over by Government each year towards Government dues, the company may not be able to meet the current expenses for manufacture, and the factory may have to be closed."

May I know whether the extension of time for payment in easy instalments hereafter, would not have served the purpose which the Government had in view?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner reported that it would not be possible for the company to recoup that loss even if extension of time was given.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): If a loan had been given to the company, would it not have been easy for the company to work the salt pans and to pay the Government dues in easy instalments?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The company did not apply for a lease.

PRESIDENT: That is not a supplementary question, Mr. Govindan.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*i*) *viz.*, "the loss of salt and the damage to the factories were due to the licensees' failure to raise their bunds and platforms," does it not apply to this licensee also, the licensee who has been granted the remission?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): That information is not available. If the member wants, Government will get it.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): I would like to get that information.

Filling the vacancy of the Director of Ayurveda.

173. **MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR** (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any special reason for the existing in charge arrangement in the Ayurveda Department being continued for more than three years;

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[Mr. K. Krishnan Nayar.]

(*b*) whether there is any precedent for such an arrangement being made for so long a period regarding the control and headship of a Department;

(*c*) whether the present Inspector of Vaidyasalas is a Gazetted Officer;

(*d*) if not, how he was permitted to be in charge of a Department; and

(*e*) whether it is allowable under the rules to permit a non-Gazetted Officer to draw bills or countersign them as in this instance?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There was no special reason; the arrangement was made only as a temporary measure as the Director was on leave. Subsequently, the question of an Advisory Board was considered, but the idea was dropped. There is no charge arrangement now.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The Inspector has since been made a Gazetted Officer.

(*d*) The member is referred to the answer to part (*a*).

(*e*) A non-Gazetted Officer is not ordinarily permitted to draw bills or countersign them; but when he is in charge of the duties of the Head of a Department—a gazetted appointment—he can draw or countersign bills.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): With regard to part (*e*) may I know whether it is not opposed to the provisions of the *Travancore Service Regulation* to allow a non-gazetted officer to draw bills or to countersign them?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The answer is given in part (*e*) itself.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether it is not opposed to the provisions of the *Account Code*?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): In rare cases it is allowed.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): Is it allowable under the Code?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes; it is allowable.

Motor bus collision on the Muvattupuzha-Todupuzha road.

174. MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): (1) Are the Government aware:

(*a*) that the Muvattupuzha-Todupuzha road is one of regular motor bus service;

(*b*) that the said road is only about 11 feet wide at the 6th furlong of the 9th milestone; and

(*c*) that on that spot there was a motor collision on the 2nd Makaram 1105 which resulted in the death of one person and which formed the subject matter of Sessions cases Nos. 3 and 4 of 1107 in the Parur Sessions Court?

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